

**01403**

**1991/06/07**

RELEASED

China's Arms Sales/M-9 Missile Sales to Syria

Question

Has China engaged in arms proliferation and what is the U.S. doing about it?

Answer

- o China's arms control policies are evolving toward the international consensus. We have made progress in some areas, and are still looking for progress in others.
- o China has provided essential support to the President's Middle East arms control initiative; has supported UNSC sanctions against Iraq; and will play an important role in South Asian nonproliferation discussions.
- o We have stressed the potentially profound consequences for our bilateral relationship of PRC missile export policies. We are currently considering what steps may be necessary to deal with our concerns in the proliferation area.
- o We are monitoring China's nuclear nonproliferation practice to ensure it conforms to stated policy.

(IF ASKED) M-9 Missiles to Syria

- o We have no indication that M-9's or any other Chinese surface-to-surface missiles have been delivered to Syria.
  - o The Chinese government has publicly denied reports of missile deliveries to Syria.
- This and previous PRC statements establish a public record of its intention to take a prudent and responsible attitude regarding weapons sales. We take these statements to indicate Chinese intention to show restraint in the area of missile sales and missile technology transfer; we will hold them to this commitment.

(IF ASKED) M-11 Missiles to Pakistan

- o We have told the Chinese that exports to Pakistan of the M-11 missile and equipment or any other system exceeding MTCR Guidelines would constitute grave threats to the region and would have bilateral consequences, including potential imposition of sanctions under the National Defense Authorization Act.

(IF ASKED) Imposition of Missile Sanctions

- o The Administration is reviewing potential sanctions cases. We will of course advise the Congress of any sanctions determinations that are made.

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N43

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